



Activities Callout: New and Improved

By Melissa Piskula, Staff Reporter

Every year the upperclassman and staff at Saint Joseph's College plan an Activities Callout for the freshman class, introducing them to the numerous clubs and organizations on campus and allowing them the opportunity to sign up for what interests them. In years past, the event had been held in the ballroom, consisting of a simple maze of tables. This year, however, Michele Gunkelman, Sarah Spencer, and Heather Mikus, in charge of coordinating the event, decided to try something new.

"We thought it needed a big change!" said Spencer. "The old atmosphere was not motivating for new students. We thought that simply moving the event outside would make a huge impact. Also, we felt it needed to be a campus-wide event rather than just for first year students."

"We needed to mix it up a little bit and encourage upperclassman to participate as well," Gunkelman agreed.

"In the past, upperclass students didn't feel invited to attend. Many of them felt too overwhelmed freshman year to sign up for a lot of

clubs, but once they were more settled they didn't know what was happening on campus," Mikus added.

Gunkelman, Spencer, and Mikus were pleased with this year's success. "I was very happy the way Activities Callout turned out. It seemed like everyone was having fun, and most freshmen took the time to give every club a chance to explain what they do instead of just running around the tables so they could say they were there for freshman seminar," Mikus said.

Spencer agreed, adding, "There are changes and improvements that must be made to make it better next year, but overall it was a huge success!"

Based on the positive reception the new and improved event received, a second Activities Callout for this year is being planned. This event would be for those who start in January, and those who thought they would be too busy first semester to sign up for campus activities.



"Connecting" Hurricane Katrina Victims

By Katie Grgic, Co-Editor in Chief

"Some of the stories we heard really moved me... We heard first hand from one lady who was rescued off the roof of an assisted living home... All of these amazing people look to us as if we are their saviors, giving them the ability to call their loved ones and try to regain contact with the people in their lives that they love."

Senior computer science major John Whelan recorded the above in his online blog to capture his experiences in Louisiana assisting the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Whelan decided he was capable of assisting the people of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina upon hearing about how a combination of wireless and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology would be used to enable those at shelters to make phone calls to their

loved ones. "I heard about a group that was planning on deploying teams to setup wireless networks to the affected area," Whelan explained. "I subscribed to the mailing lists and talked to my boss at Infotex, Matt Jonkman, who also jumped at the idea of helping. An email came through from Mac Dearman in Louisiana, stating he really needed help in getting wireless and VoIP to the shelters in the areas near him. My boss and I decided to respond."

Whelan and his boss left Lafayette on the evening of Sept. 5th around 10 p.m., drove straight through and arrived in Rayville, Louisiana late Tuesday afternoon, and set up camp at Dearman's farm. Whelan was one of roughly a dozen volunteers with expertise in wireless internet service.

Using a variety of donated equipment, Whelan and the

other volunteers were able to set up wireless high speed internet access at various shelters. Through this wireless network, they could then set up VoIP technology to enable hurricane victims to contact their loved ones. "VoIP allows us to send voice telephone calls over the internet," Whelan said. "This enables us to provide these shelters with the ability for people to call anywhere in the US or Canada for free. We also are able to deploy banks of phones at these shelters, instead of the one or two phone lines they had in place before."

For Whelan, the only SJC student to participate in this project, the lessons he has learned professionally and the way he has grown personally has been amazing. "I have grown a lot professionally in such a short period of time," Whelan commented. "I learned a lot about wireless

networking that I did not already know, and I also have learned more about VoIP deployments that I am sure I will take with me in my career."

However, it was in the ability to help make a difference for the people at these shelters that he experienced the most growth, in both character and spirituality. "I knew immediately upon arrival that my decision to come here was the right one," he said. "Being able to help these people, to hear their stories of survival, was amazing. They told us how the simple ability to make phone calls to their loved ones was an incredible thing for them. It felt good to be able to help people, to help them connect with loved ones. Not only was it a learning experience, it was a spiritual one as well. This was definitely a case where I felt I was doing the Lord's work."

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Point: The Anti-War Effort is Pushing a Political Agenda

By Joseph Larson, *Editor in Chief*

There is nothing more fun than using a natural disaster to push political agendas. Bored with Cindy Sheehan, the anti-war crowd has turned to Hurricane Katrina as the latest reason that we should cut and run from Iraq. Critics of the war argue that if National Guard troops had been at home, lives could have been saved in the recovery effort along the Gulf Coast.

Unfortunately for the left, America had more than enough National Guard troops when Hurricane Katrina hit. The problem was simply getting them where they needed to be, a legal and logistical challenge that having more troops at home would have done nothing to change.

It turns out America is based on a "federal system" that operates according to

"laws." Bush could have federalized the National Guard before Katrina, but that would have violated said "laws." According to a September 9 *New York Times* article titled "Political Issues Snarled Plans for Troop Aid," Louisiana Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco resisted Bush's request to federalize troops after the hurricane hit, preferring to manage the troops at the state level.

Due to the confusion of the situation, however, Blanco did not formally request additional troops until the Wednesday after the Hurricane made landfall.

"Nobody told me that I had to request that," she later said.

When the request for additional troops finally came, the laws of physics intervened. Apparently

National Guard troops are made of "matter," and matter cannot be instantly transported from one place to another, even cases of national emergency. Instead, it takes "time" to move troops and equipment across the country, explaining the delays.

Bush could have overridden Blanco's authority in order to get more National Guard troops to Louisiana earlier, but that would have involved a legally dubious method under the Insurrection Act, a law that has not been invoked since the Civil War against a governor's will.

Had Bush pursued this option, he would have sidestepped a Democratic governor in order to forcefully send soldiers from the 82nd Airborne into New Orleans. Then the American

public would have been treated to televised images of unwanted federal troops under Bush's command shooting looters, many of whom were black. It seems doubtful that this scenario would have done much to change rapper Kanye West's opinion of the situation.

Katrina was one of the worst disasters in the history of America, but having more National Guard troops at home would have done nothing to change the situation. The problem was not a lack of soldiers, but rather the inherent bureaucratic slowness that comes with requesting and then transporting large numbers of troops across the country.

Counter Point: Mismanagement and the National Guard

By E. Andrew Jendraszak, *Opinion Editor*

I am not suggesting that the President of the United States is responsible for a hurricane. Rather, I am suggesting that a policy of deploying National Guard troops disproportionately overseas combined with a surprising inability to deploy Guard troops within our borders has had dire consequences. The Guard plays an important role here within the country. Pres. Bush, who sends the Guard 6200 miles to Iraq without a second thought, is unable to deploy the Guard in Louisiana. This incompetence is compounded by the misallocation of Guard forces overseas. This misplacement of Guard forces in Iraq compounded by presidential negligence made the disaster of Katrina worse.

On Thurs. Sept. 25th four days prior to Katrina's landfall, Gov. Blanco (D-LA) announced a state of emergency in Louisiana due to the approaching hurricane Katrina. Three days later on Aug. 28th one day prior to the hurricane, she sent a message to the President asking for federal assistance because of the coming hurricane. That same day, one day before Katrina hit, Gov. Richardson (D-NM) offered New Mexico National Guard assistance. Blanco accepted this offer; however, this was not the

formal request required by interstate law. It was less than 48 hours later (the day after Katrina hit), that the formal request arrived in D.C. Then the federal government took two days before allowing New Mexico to send Guard troops to Louisiana (three days after Katrina hit).

Mr. Larson points to this and suggests that these are the obvious limitations of red tape, perhaps inherent to the *federal system* of the American Democracy. First of all, I would like to suggest that Mr. Larson's suggestion that *laws* are important is absolutely correct. I would also like to suggest that these *laws* of a *federal system* permit the President of the United State to deploy the National Guard at a moments notice. The President could have federalized the National Guard units of any state and sent them to New Orleans. The President has had this authority since 1952 when Congress passed a bill allowing the President to federalize and deploy any Guard unit for fifteen days (P.L. No 82-476, 66 Stat. 481(1952)). As a history major, I am certain Mr. Larson recalls that Eisenhower federalized the Arkansas Guard in 1956 when the *Little Rock Nine* desegregated the schools of Little Rock. President

Kennedy did the same in 1962 to desegregate Ole Miss, a public university in Mississippi. Mr. Larson is correct to assert that the *federal system* and *laws* are important; however, any student of American history knows that this is not against the law.

Mr. Larson suggests that President Bush offered to federalize the National Guard and Blanco refused. This is wrong. I am not an English major; however, I can read an article in the *New York Times*. The article Mr. Larson refers to reads, "But decision makers in Washington felt certain that Ms. Blanco would have resisted surrendering control, as Bush administration officials believe would have been required to deploy active-duty combat forces..." The Bush administration did not offer to federalize the National Guard. They thought about it and did not—negligence. Blanco may have accepted the federalization of Louisiana troops given that the same *Times* article quotes Blanco the day Katrina hit saying to Pres. Bush, "I need everything you have got." Bush could have used the 1952 provision to have federalized the national guards of surrounding states, or he could have asked Blanco to authorize the federalization of Louisiana troops. Though no English major, as a literate American, I can say that is obvious that Bush posed no such question—only thought of it.

To clarify, history tells us that the Guard has been federalized in the past. Reading the news tells us that the President did not ask nor

attempt to federalize the Guard of any state. Instead, he took three days to grant authority to Louisiana to use Guard forces from other states. The President's passive approach to the use of Guard forces may have been effective if it had not been for his overly aggressive use of the same forces in Iraq.

When Katrina hit Louisiana, 40% of their Guard was serving in Iraq. Louisiana's 4000 troops in Iraq could have played an instrumental role in New Orleans. Mr. Larson is correct to assume that the Guard troops all over the world are made of *matter* and that it takes *time* to transport them. However by the time Katrina hit, Blanco had mobilized 4000 of the 5700 troops in the state. If the other 4000 Louisiana Guard troops had been available, the efforts of the Louisiana Guard could have been doubled. If this had been the case perhaps the sloth-like, three-days-late, approval from DC may have been sufficient to overcome the challenges posed by Katrina. As for the *time* needed to move these troops, moving troops within Louisiana and neighboring states takes significantly less time than flying them 7165 miles from Baghdad to New Orleans (as they are currently).

Beyond political punch lines, the National Guard has been mismanaged: there are not enough Guard troops in this nation to permit the President to make even slight miscalculations. The Guard is supposed to be *national*, because in times like this that *our nation needs them here*.

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If you would like to voice your opinion, send a letter to the editor or become an *Observer* contributor. Contact the editorial board via our Saint Joe's email account.

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“Postville” Author Stephen Bloom to Visit SJC

By Katie Grgic, *Publications and Media Relations Intern*

Although students of the Core Program need to ask questions about the content of the texts required for the courses, rarely do they get the opportunity to question the authors. This year, however, they will get the opportunity to pick the brain of one of the authors whose work they will read for class. On Oct. 20, Stephen Bloom, author of “Postville: A Clash of Cultures in Heartland America,” will visit with core, English and journalism classes to discuss his book and what it means to be a writer.

“Postville,” one of the books on the Core I reading list, tells the story of several Jewish people of an ultra-Hasidic faith who purchase a

kosher slaughterhouse in a small town in Iowa, establish a thriving global business out of slaughtering Iowa beef and ultimately gain power in their small town. “What could have been a minor business story in the back of a local newspaper turned into an amazing saga about culture clash, assimilation and, ultimately, what it means to be an American today,” Bloom said. “The book explores mainstreaming into America versus maintaining a separate cultural identity - two essential issues for anyone who wants to navigate successfully in the 21st century.”

Having been named a Best Book of the Year by MS-NBC, the “Chicago Sun-

Times,” “Denver Rocky Mountain News,” “Chicago Tribune” and “St. Louis Post-Dispatch,” “Postville” is required reading at over 100 colleges and universities in the country. As a result, Bloom has lectured extensively on diversity, community and cultural identity.

In addition to the insight he has to offer on the idea of social acceptance, Bloom will also share what he has learned in his vast experience as a writer with English and journalism classes on campus. Besides “Postville,” Bloom has penned a collection of nonfiction stories and a dramatic play entitled “Shoedog,” as well as numerous freelance articles.

He has also served as a staff writer for a number of newspapers, including the “Los Angeles Times.”

“I love writing. I do it every day,” Bloom declared. “Writing, by the way, isn’t just sitting in front of a computer and typing. It’s observing. It’s making connections. It’s thinking about how the world works - or doesn’t work, and then telling a story that matters.”

A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Bloom has taught at the University of Iowa for the past thirteen years with a focus in narrative journalism. He currently lives with his wife and son in Iowa City.



Stephen Bloom, author of “Postville: A Clash of Cultures in Heartland Amerca,” will speak to core, English, and journalism students during his visit on Oct. 20th.

Picture courtesy of www.mpr.org

SJC Honored As A “Best Midwestern College”- Again

By Becky Scherer, *Director of Publications and Media Relations*

The Princeton Review, a company dedicated to assisting students with standardized test preparation and the college selection process, recently included Saint Joseph’s College in its third annual “Best Midwestern College” listing on www.PrincetonReview.com. SJC was an institution highlighted for the region for the second year in a row, and is one of 158 schools on the site receiving the “Best in the Midwest” designation.

“The annual update of our “Best Midwestern College” profiles generates a surge of attention, awareness, and discussion of colleges featured as the best in the nation, from both the news media and the highly coveted audience of parents and students,” said Publisher and Editorial Director for the Princeton Review Robert Franek.

Colleges and universities are chosen initially based on data obtained by the Princeton Review. Students from each school are then surveyed to validate their findings. Questions cover such topics

as academic curriculum, admissions selectivity and campus life.

“The professors actually care about their students both inside and outside the classroom,” wrote one student. “Almost all of them give out their home phone numbers, and some invite their students to their houses for a home-cooked dinner.”

Another said, “Because it is such a small campus, almost everyone knows everyone else. People say ‘Hi’ to one another all the time.”

SJC President Ernest R. Mills III was happy to receive the news. “It’s a pleasure to be recognized as a college,” he said. “We know what a great education we provide to others, and it’s nice to be honored for it.”

The Princeton Review is just one of several distinctions received by SJC; it was honored by “U.S. News and World Report” as being a top bachelor-degree-awarding “Midwestern Comprehensive College.” SJC is also named as a “character-building college” by the Templeton Foundation.

Pi Sigma Alpha Joins Ranks of SJC Honors Societies

By Kara Marxer, *Staff Reporter*

Saint Joseph’s College is home to over 40 various clubs and organizations, with everything from Diversity Coalition to Mock Trial. The political science department is now making its own addition to that long list: Pi Sigma Alpha, an honor society specifically for political science majors.

On Friday, August 28, seven political science majors were inducted at a ceremony conducted by Dr. David Dixon. “During the ceremony it was nice to reflect on the mission of the organization: to produce young people who wish to make a political impact on a world which desperately needs political impact,” Dixon said, pleased

with the department and students alike.

Likewise, the charter members felt the weight of their new honor society.

Academic honor societies encourage students to excel in their fields. They’re a nice way of showing appreciation for a student’s effort, and students feel proud of their accomplishments. And, of course, they look good on resumes, senior political science major Jean Monfort said.

Started in 1920, Pi Sigma Alpha is the third largest honor society in the country, with 615 chapters across the United States. It is also the only collegiate honor society for students pursuing political

science or governmental careers. To qualify for membership, students must at least possess junior status, have at least 10 credits in political science and earned no less than a B in these classes, and have a cumulative GPA that places them within the top third of their class.

The inductees included 2005 graduates Jacob Lofgren, Renee Pugh, and Michael Barry, as well as seniors Kara Marxer, Jean Monfort, and Janet Hertz, and junior Adam Deno. For more information about Pi Sigma Alpha, contact Dr. Dixon at davidd@saintjoe.edu.

Measure Magazine is Now Accepting Submissions!

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to submit up to **five** original pieces of artwork, poetry, short stories, or any other type of literary and artistic work. Submissions should be sent to **Amber Slagal** at asj5055@saintjoe.edu.

For questions, email measure-editors@saintjoe.edu

Keep an eye out for comedian **Pete Correale**, visiting campus on **Sept. 28** from **9-11** in the Halleck Ballroom!

Interested in writing for *The Observer*? We are currently looking for students to write for our News section. If interested, contact **Katie Grgic** at kgi4465@saintjoe.edu or ext. 8103.

Teresa’s Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



Regina Spektor poses for an album cover. *Soviet Kitsch* brings a fresh female voice to the music scene. (Photo courtesy of www.reginaspektor.com)

Regina Spektor Hits the Right Keys with Fans and Critics

If you are a fan of The Strokes, then the name Regina Spektor is probably familiar. The Moscow-born songstress opened for The Strokes during their 2004 European tour. Thanks to them, Spektor’s latest work, *Soviet Kitsch*, has had a much larger audience than expected. Its accessibility has turned the world onto poetic lyrics, prodigious piano skills and very original music.

Soviet Kitsch begins with “Ode to Divorce.” It is a well crafted song in which the listener can hear from the very beginning that the piano is Spektor’s forte. Her simple, yet intricate piano playing is the main drive of each song. Spektor’s lyrics in this particular piece float out of her mouth with soft urgency. As the lyrics become more tragic, her voice explodes, stressing the words she is singing.

Spektor has a series of songs that fit this mold on her album, but she manages to make each song sound fresh and different from the one that preceded it. She varies her piano styling in just the right ways, giving each song its own matchless qualities. A good example of this is in the song “Chemo Limo.” The song starts off with a triplet pattern from the piano and later progresses to a harsh plunking of the keys. Finally, it reverts back to the original pattern. It is a style that is truly her own.

Additionally, her lyrics are zesty and full of imagery. Lines such as “The flowers you gave me are rotting and still I refuse to throw them away / Some of the bulbs never opened quite fully they might so I’m waiting and staying awake” are descriptive and demonstrate her ability to romanticize what may have merely been a normal situation.

Spektor does, however, have a few mishaps on this album. “Poor Little Rich Boy” is one of the weakest melodies in the collection. In this song, Spektor trades in her piano for a stick and strikes it against wood to provide the melody. The result is musically empty and does not provide the rich fullness of the other songs on the album. In addition, songs such as “Your Honor” also seem empty. The sudden outburst of punk rock power chords and the lack of meaningful lyrics leave the listener wondering if this could possibly be the same woman singing.

Despite these few minor flaws, Spektor delivers a great album. The musical world has not seen a female artist with a piano like this since Tori Amos. Spektor is currently in the studio working on a new album. There is no doubt in my mind that she will deliver an even better follow up album to *Soviet Kitsch*.

The musical Scorecard is used to give a numerical value to the quality of an album. A score of 10 is amazing, but a score of 1 would cause most listeners to cry out in pain. Five is an average score. The review does not express the opinion of *The Observer*.

Musical Scorecard:
Originality: 9
Lyrics: 9
Lasting Appeal: 7
Album Cover: 7
Total: 8/10

The 40 Year-Old Virgin: Do Not Abstain

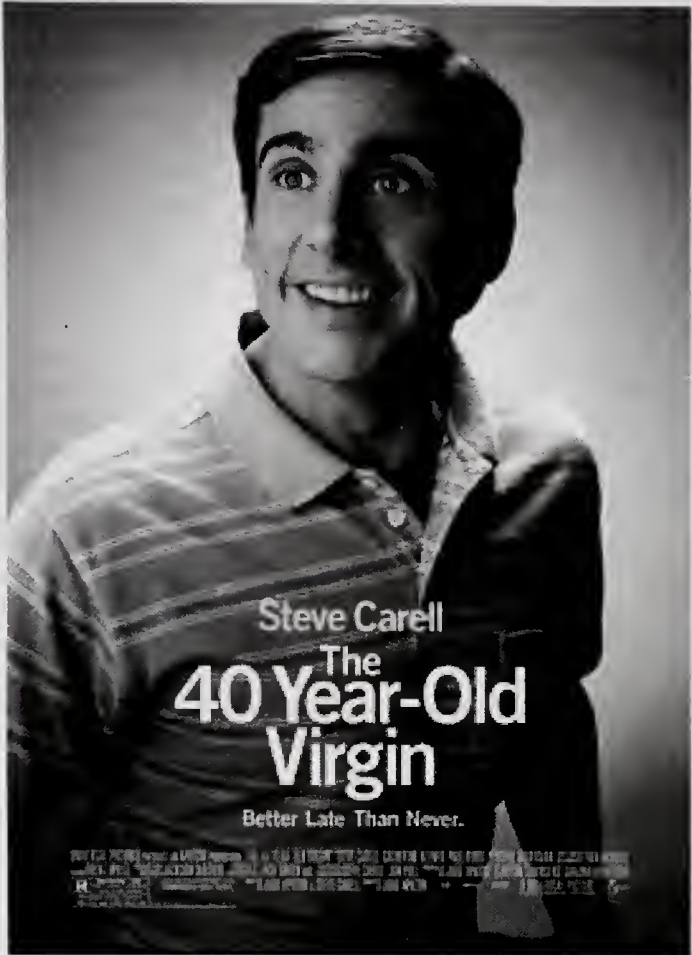
By Katherine Stembel, Staff Writer

Steve Carell’s current television show, *The Office*, premiered with much fanfare, but the ratings spoke for themselves. *The Office* has the distinction of being the lowest rated show in the history of television to be renewed for a second season. In other words, *The Office* is boring. Thanks NBC.

Luckily for Carell, his first leading man foray onto the silver screen in *The 40 Year-Old Virgin* did not follow suit.

While *The Office* made me want to pluck out my own eyes and shove them into my ears for some real entertainment, *The 40 Year-Old Virgin* didn’t make me resort to self mutilation, and I thoroughly enjoyed the overall amusing, if not sophomoric, humor.

In order to allow audiences to fully view Carell’s talents, barely recognizable supporting actors were chosen so that they would not outshine him. Carell’s on-



Steve Carell poses on a poster for *The 40 Year-Old Virgin*. (Photo courtesy of [http://movies.yahoo.com/](http://movies.yahoo.com/shop?d=hv&id=1808640995&cf=pg&photoid=581308&intl=us))

screen friends include Jay (Romany Malco), Cal (Seth Rogan) and David (Paul Rudd ... remember the stepbrother from *Clueless*? Yeah, I didn’t either.) Andy Stitzer (Carell) leads a quiet life filled with an extensive collection of action figures and a

steady job at an electronics superstore. However, once Andy’s virginal lifestyle is accidentally exposed, his friends become intent on making Andy a man.

He innocently blunders through several dating disasters including a foot to the nose for an unfortunate toe fetish girl and an unexpected face full of vomit from an intoxicated hook-up, as well as a painful looking chest waxing incident thrown in for good measure.

The naïve Andy finally discovers love in a forty-

something single mother of three named Trish (Catherine Keener), basing their entire relationship on the absence of “it.” Plus, the ending is simply a must-see.

So shell out the \$7.50, because, after all, it’s “Better late than never.”

Dungeons and Dragons and Your Mom, Oh My!

By BJ Houlding, Staff Writer

Dungeons & Dragons. What kind of images does that bring to mind? A bunch of sweaty fat guys talking about elves in their moms’ basements? Or perhaps you think of occultists slaughtering sheep in the name of their dwarven God? I’m here to tell you that the truth is neither. According to *Wizards of the Coast*, “*D&D* is an imaginative, social experience... *D&D* is an ongoing (activity)...much like a weekly poker game.” Here on campus, four guys congregate for this weekly activity.

For about two semesters, Mike Caristi, JP Schroeder, and myself have gotten together every Sunday to play for a few hours, eat pizza, and make rampant pop culture references. The other member of our quartet you ask? Well, actually, he has requested that his name be kept secret to help maintain what little dignity



Dragons are not protected by the Endangered Species Act. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.canadiandragon.com/gallery/drawings/dragon-mendel.jpg>)

he has left. Thankfully, this journalist determined he has none, so I have no problem telling you its George White. Why do we play Dungeons & Dragons? Let me break down a typical moment for you and let you decide for yourself.

JP: Ok guys, so the dragon is dead –

Mike: You know what else is dead?

All: Vaudeville (from the *Family Guy* episode “Holy Crap!”)

Mike: Heh heh...

George: Quit getting off-topic Mike!

Mike: Your mom!

JP: Anyway, the dragon is dead, and there’s treasure—

All: Yay!

Treasure, *Family Guy* quotes, and mom jokes; what isn’t alluring there? In all seriousness though, *D&D* is simply a loose template that can be made into anything the group desires, usually with

enjoyable results. JP likens the experience to “writing and reading a book.” In the end, *Dungeons & Dragons* is whatever you want it to be, and that excitement is what draws people to the game. I’m proud to be part of the *SJC D&D* community, and I encourage everyone to check it out.

Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Spite of College

By Joe Larson, Co-Editor in Chief

There is a book by Robert Fulghum called *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. This title might be true if all you really need to know is that two plus two equals four and eating Play-Doh causes explosive diarrhea. However, it is doubtful that anyone will land a job at a Fortune 500 company with only a kindergarten education, unless affirmative action comes into play.

That is why God invented college. In the hallowed halls of higher education, students learn that the world is a complex place where thousands of cultures co-exist and all the best jobs get outsourced to India. Liberated from the constraints of reality, students are free to learn career-building concepts such as how Confucianism affects the Chinese family or why a little Hispanic girl writes incoherent poetry. After completing college, students will still have no skills relevant to a Fortune 500 company, but at least they will know that white males are the source of all evil and cafeteria food causes explosive diarrhea.

Kindergarten and college actually have a lot in common besides urgent trips to the bathroom. The former is just a holding pen to figure out which kids can sit in a classroom without biting each other. Those



This is a school. Children probably go here to learn, but there's no way to be sure. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.psd150.org/calvincoolidge/school&flag.jpg>)

who pass earn the right to enter first grade, and those who fail are ground up into dog food.

College is also a holding pen, albeit a much longer and more expensive one. Although 18 to 21-year-olds look like adults, they still need to acquire a layer of fat and the early stages of male pattern baldness before they are ready for the real world. Those who do gain weight and lose hair earn the right to hold entry level jobs in fields unrelated to their majors, while those who fail are doomed to graduate school.

Although the subject matter changes between college and kindergarten, human relationships stay pretty much the same. Friendships at age five are sealed by playing “kick the can” and “pick on the fat kid,” while in college they mostly rely on “drink the can” and “become the fat kid.” Only in kindergarten and the drunken throes of college is it okay for someone to wet their pants and still have a good time.

Not all interaction becomes easier with age. Avoiding the girl

with freckles because she has cooties matures into avoiding the girl with sores because she has herpes. Science has yet to create a cootie shot to cure that particular STD. Even relationships with healthy members of the opposite gender are more complicated in college than they were in kindergarten. Life was a lot easier before phrases like “sexual harassment” and “age of consent” entered the popular vocabulary.

The only advantage college students really have over kindergarteners is size. Children break easily, but college students are virtually indestructible. Something as minor as a fall down two flights of stairs or a mauling by a cougar is enough to put a five-year-old out of commission for months, but college students survive such incidents while drunk on a weekly basis. Alcohol makes people tougher, smarter, and better looking, and don’t let pubic service announcements or common sense tell you otherwise.

Unfortunately for many students, there are occasional flashes of sobriety in college life, most of which occur in time for class. Whereas kindergarten teaches that life is fun and exciting, college teaches that life is arbitrary and full of poisonous snakes. Happy face stickers and

gold stars are gradually replaced with report cards and court subpoenas, while coloring projects and artsy Christmas decorations give way to plagiarized term papers and anonymous death threats. As time passes, the subject matter becomes exponentially more pointless. Knowing the color of a firetruck could at least have a practical use in life, while knowing the theme of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* could not – besides making bad John Kerry jokes.

Ultimately, it is hard to say whether kindergarten or college is better. In most cases, personal hygiene and maturity levels remain more or less unchanged between the two. The kicker is that both are part of the educational process, a long and painful system of learning not entirely dissimilar from hernia surgery. In fact, most major operations cost about as much as college but have clearer benefits. So instead of kindergarten or college, I choose heart surgery, an option that will keep me alive for many blissful years of illiteracy.

This article is the opinion of Joe Larson and not The Observer Staff. If you disagree with anything found within its text, you are wrong. All complaints will be ignored.

Measure is Art for Everybody’s Sake

By Danny Waclaw, Staff Writer

There’s much to be said for poetry. Its concise word use, its ability to go beyond itself and straight to the reader, and the listening pleasure that it evokes all contribute to its greatness as an artistic medium.

But poetry in itself is not exclusively “art.” It is here where Measure comes in. For over half a century, Measure has been a place for art enthusiasts to come together to share their work. The point has never been to limit the artist’s potential through keeping him or her in step with one exclusive way of artistic expression, but rather to help the artist grow through casual critique or displaying his or her work in front of a few receptive friends.

The conventional wisdom, however, is that Measure is strictly for the literary set, the poets who while away their days in the grotto composing the next *Wasteland*. Indeed, the club has always had a slant toward the written word, but its emphasis has always been on artistic appreciation. The inclusion of several pieces of visual art in the most recent *Measure* magazine gives testament to this fact.



This is a pile of books. People at Measure meetings often read from them. (Photo courtesy of <http://vger.cob.rit.edu/arena/Basket/books.jpg>)

This is not to say, then, that Measure is for the artistic elite, the professionals whose pieces appear in galleries with opening gala events. Measure gatherings are where people come together to showcase and present their work, but the overall purpose of the gatherings are for discussion. Through seeing someone’s painting, one may be reminded of a short story that relates to it or, Heaven forbid, something from a Core book. It’s all about connections.

And even that is a rather stilted idea of a Measure gathering. Guitar in the background, a hefty plate of food, and a good cup of coffee are usually the norm, and more often conversation extends from the discussion of a poem to problems on campus, disasters across the world, or a recent trip to Grandma’s. All in all, Measure does not adhere to the popular idea of art for art’s sake; rather, Measure proposes art for everybody’s sake.

More Students Should “Make the Right Choice” on Thursdays

By Julia LaBlanc, Staff Writer

The average Saint Joseph’s College student knows all about “Thirsty Thursdays,” but few know about the non-alcoholic alternative. The SJC “Make the Right Choice” club, or MAC, offers students a fun and safe way to spend Thursday nights. It is a purely social club whose members play games, eat food, and socialize late into the night. MAC meets every Thursday night at Cup O’ Joe, located in the Chapel Basement. Students who find themselves sitting in their dorm rooms with little to do should head to the Chapel Basement for a fun way to spend the evening without alcohol. The club promotes a very laid back yet fun atmosphere. It is an excellent opportunity to meet new people. MAC starts at 8 p.m. and goes

until students start to clear out, which is often 12 p.m. The late hours make Cup O’ Joe a great place to do homework in the company of others.

Students are not to attend MAC while intoxicated. Anyone who chooses to break this rule will find themselves at the mercy of

the campus security and the regular disciplinary process.

MAC is a great opportunity for students across campus to become involved in something besides drinking. Those who are interested in the group are encouraged to bring a friend and a smile and to be ready to have some fun. Remember, there is no alcohol involved. Students who have questions can call MAC member Jeff Lawrence. His extension is 5328. See you on Thursday!



(Photo courtesy of <http://www.educarer.com/images/alcohol.gif>)

Puma Football: The Season of Lou

By Andrew Costello, Staff Writer

I was amazed when I viewed the 2005 ESPN college football airtime schedule and did not see the usual pigskin classic before Labor Day weekend. Fortunately for me, I was treated to my own pigskin classic right here in Rensselaer. The Pumas took on the Eagles from Ashland at 12:00p.m. on Saturday, August 27. The Pumas played extremely well but came up short, suffering a 30-15 loss that fateful afternoon. Despite the loss, I knew one thing was for sure: this season was going to be something special.

When we last visited the Pumas, they had just come off a 7-4 season, highlighted by key wins over West Virginia Tech, Austin Peary and Tiffin. Head Coach Tim Lester had resurrected a Puma football program that had won only six games the previous two seasons.

Now it is 2005. Tim Lester is gone and his then-assistant, Lou Esposito, has taken over the reins of the pouncin' Pumas. The coaching staff includes: Matt St. Germain, Isaiah Taulbee, Greg Huster and new additions Brad Paulson and Scott Brade. The Pumas returned over forty players from last year's roster. Despite the large amount of returnees, the team is still

young, as only eight of those returning are seniors. Head Coach Lou Esposito recognizes this, but is optimistic about the future. "We want to establish some consistency. I think by doing that, we will find out what type of team we have. We still are very young and have a lot of growing to do as a family. The great thing is all the guys that are here want to grow."

New assistant coach Brad Paulson came to Saint Joseph's from Anderson College, where, as an offensive coordinator, he helped lead Anderson into the top ten for total offense for all of Division III. "I came to Saint Joe's because it was a chance to coach an exciting football program at the Division II level. The opportunity to be a part of something special here was too good to pass up. I felt the program was headed in the right direction and I was very excited after meeting with Coach

Esposito and the staff about becoming a Puma," states Paulson.

Team captains this year include sophomore quarterback Anthony Lindsey, junior

2004 stats (2415 total yards, 24 TD, 11 INT) help him command respect from his teammates.

"Being the quarterback takes a lot of responsibility and there is a lot of pressure on me to know what everyone on the field is doing on every play. Personally, I'm not a very vocal leader, but players respect me enough to follow my leadership by example."

Sophomore Dan Paulsen and senior transfer Kevin Maurice help contribute to a Puma offense that averaged over twenty-nine points a game last year. Their individual performance depends greatly on their teammates. "I am still learning and need to improve as much as possible. I look forward to this year because of my teammates. Teammates are the most important aspect in this game," an emphatic Paulsen said. Kevin Maurice seems to agree.

"I feel that I have been well received here...the guys even have a nickname for me. Every other place I have gone, I have tried to do my best to stay up to par with the program and do my best to contribute even more. I owe that to my teammates," says Maurice.

The Puma defense looks to stifle their opponents much like last year, allowing only 307 yards of total offense per game in 2004. "[The defense] is doing really well right now, but we are constantly striving to improve each week," says Sanders.

Despite starting 0-2 during the season and a buzzer beating loss to St. Francis (IL), Beale acknowledges the determination and hard work of the Pumas and recognizes the potential for greatness. "I think we will be all right. We just have to keep working together as a team and continue to build up our trust in the system."

Come out and support the Pumas as they strive for excellence. The remaining schedule features five home contests against Lincoln (Sept. 17), Missouri-Rolla (Homecoming Weekend, Sept. 24), Upper Iowa (Oct. 1), Tiffin (Oct. 15) and Indianapolis (Senior Day, Oct. 29).



Courtesy of Fr. McFarland

defensive back Cory Sanders, senior nose tackle Kevin Rees and senior offensive lineman David Beale.

Retaining the starting quarterback position and being designated a team captain as a sophomore can sometimes get to one's head. Lindsey, however, understands his role as a prime catalyst for the offense. His

Pumas Set Up for Winning Season

By Erin Jones, Staff Writer



As the school year begins, the SJC volleyball program is looking forward to another positive and successful season. Being no strangers to adversity, a few challenges have arisen but they are not enough to discourage the team.

The ladies had to spend their pre-season at Rensselaer Central High School due to the delay in painting the gym floor and have suffered injuries to a few players, including junior standout Eryn Speed (4.15 digs/game). However, the loss of the 2004 seniors: Krystyn Corley, Kathy Garrigan, Jill Mourey and

Karen Miller, three of whom were starters, has not yet posed a major threat. Head coach Linda Deno recruited nine new athletes, and sees the returning nine as "anxious and willing to battle". Deno also adds that "leadership from these upperclassmen will be crucial".

Senior captains, Britney Wikierak and Shelley Figiel have high aspirations for the 2005 squad and along with Deno would like to achieve a winning record and be contenders for the GLVC title. Wikierak added, "These freshmen (and sophomores) are really helping

out. They have accepted each other, the rest of the team and their roles; the chemistry we share is going to help us push, motivate and accomplish our goals".

In addition to the new players, the volleyball program added a new assistant coach, Brett Sayer. Sayer comes to SJC from the University of New Hampshire, where he played for their men's team and began his student coaching. Sayer also served as assistant coach for the Lady Titans of Westminster College and head

coach for the Thunder Volleyball Club.

The ladies are looking forward to success this season. They will finally obtain home court advantage on Friday, September 23rd versus University of Missouri-St. Louis at 7:30p.m. They also play at home on Saturday, September 24th against Quincy. Please take some time out from your homecoming festivities to support the Puma volleyball team.

Small Team, Big Spirit

By Candace Northam, Staff Writer

The SJC women's tennis team kicked off their season on Friday, September 9th at Northern Kentucky. They played a heartfelt match although they were not victorious (3-6).

The women are looking forward to this season. As team captain Christie VanEyck says,

"With five returning starters, and only one freshman, I think we are all mentally prepared for what is in store for us. I think we will have a great season!"

The team is facing one major challenge this season: they only have six players, the required

amount to have a full team. Junior Heidi Friermood stated, "I think having only six girls makes me more cautious when I practice to prevent injuries. It also forces me to focus on conditioning for longer matches, back-to-back singles

and doubles matches, so I don't get tired as quickly." The Lady Puma's first home match will be on September 27th against Lewis and they wish to invite everyone to come out and support them!



A Fool for Fantasy Football

By Elizabeth Klocek, Columnist

Well, sports fans, I would like to apologize. For what, you might ask. It's only the first issue of the year, the first column, and as yet, I have not mentioned anything athletic or sports-related. And, as of yet, I have not made any glaring factual errors (grammar . . . that I cannot account for). Not to worry, they will come in time. And it is for that, that I apologize now.

I claim no expertise, rather, a fairly stubborn and often ignorant set of biases regarding players, teams, and sports in general. It's a disease, please bear with me.

This year, as well as making my first foray into columnist-ship (it isn't a word, in fact, I am sure there is a better one; deal with it), I am also entering the complex and competitive world of Fantasy Football for the first time. This cannot end well. By the end of the column it should be quite clear why.

First, let me mention that I am a perennial loser: board games, card games, HORSE, even games in which I have no actual influence, other than the fact that I have picked a favorite to win. Though this does not necessarily mark me for failure, I have only begun to explain what I am up against.

The second issue I must contend with is my complete ignorance of Fantasy Football. I had consoled myself as our league formed that there was another girl as lost as myself, but alas, she had someone help her pre-rank and her team bears that out. I say she cheated, I prefer to lose on my own merits. My own team bears only one name I recognize. This could be a potential problem. An actual problem is that now that we've drafted, I have no idea what the hell I am supposed to be doing.

The third issue is slightly more complex: my knowledge of football in general, and professional football specifically. Before I go any further, let me mention that I *do* love football; that, fortunately, is a non-issue. But I digress.

What I know, or believe, about football, I think, would best be illustrated in list form.



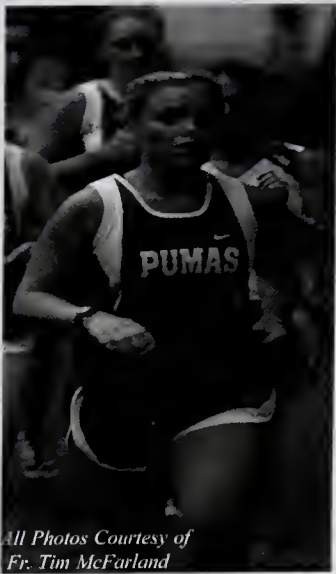
Elizabeth's Football Truths

1. Extreme cold, and preferably snow, is "football weather," and the only kind I will acknowledge as such.
2. The Green Bay Packers need never leave the frozen wasteland that is Wisconsin ever again (read: I hate the Packers). I heartily enjoy the rare occasions when the Bears beat them and my entire family goes into mourning.
3. The New England Patriots are the greatest NFL team. And Tom Brady is my boyfriend. (I suppose you could word it: Tom Brady is my boyfriend, ergo, the Patriots are the best... whatever).
4. Tiki and Ronde Barber are the coolest. The only explanation I can offer is that I am easily amused.
5. John Madden is an idiot. And I am sure someone, somewhere, could link his stupid video games to failed relationships and broken homes worldwide.
6. Overtime is a creation of the devil (regardless of the sport).

I do, in fact, possess some knowledge of positions, scoring, and the like. But you can see what I am working with. My nephew is not quite two, and he could very well be better prepared for Fantasy Football than myself, except of course, for the unfortunate circumstances that have him growing up in a Packer household.

My fiancé says this will be an educational experience for me, push me beyond the basic tenets of my football "faith," if you will: I will be forced to follow and watch more games (ones in which my boyfriend Tom is not playing), and care about them; I will expand the scope of both my adoration and contempt to more than three players; and I will actually understand what the hell a blitz is. I am skeptical.

As the football season rolls on, I will keep you posted as to the extent of my ineptitude.



All Photos Courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland



A Winning Start for Cross Country

By Chase Sonen, Staff Writer

The SJC men's and women's cross country teams started out the 2005 season with a bang, both winning their first meet of the season. The Puma invite, held on Saint Joseph's own campus, saw some great performances en route to victory.

The girls were paced by Ashley Moore, a sophomore from Clarksville, Indiana, who finished the 4K race in 17:04, taking first place. Other top finishers for the Pumas included: Kim Woodruff a sophomore from La Porte, Indiana, took fourth with a time of 17:55; a fifth place finish by Danielle Stockmaster, a sophomore from Willard, Ohio, with a time of 18:03; a sixth place finish by Jordan Henley, a junior hailing from Rossville, Indiana, with a time of 18:18; and, a seventh place finish by a freshman,

Jenna Helton, of Waterloo, Illinois.
The guys were led by junior Joe King of Alsip, Illinois, who finished the 5K race second, in just over sixteen minutes (16:06). Other top performers include: a third place finish by junior Erik Fleming of Valparaiso, Indiana (16:17); a fourth place finish by sophomore Matt Leonardo hailing from Chicago, Illinois (16:42); a sixth place finish by junior Andy VanDeHey from Kaukauna, Wisconsin (16:46); and finally a thirteenth place finish by freshman Todd Laubhan from Fort Wayne, Indiana (17:34).
The Pumas hope to keep up their winning ways throughout the season.

Heart and Sole: Women's Soccer

By Erika Osborne, Staff Writer

"Passionate, dedicated, hardworking and heart", said sophomore Aniela Pulice. Junior Jenna Mullins added one more adjective to describe the 2005 women's soccer team, "Friends".
The team graduated five seniors last year, but returned eight starters. They have gone through some changes in the past ten months. One major change is a new head coach. Jason Dowiak has taken over the team this year. He assisted Coach Rob Cummings last season.
Junior Katie Awerkamp notes some of the changes since receiving the new coaching staff. "Our team has made a total turnaround since last season. Our attitudes and desire have really up-scaled since Jason Dowiak has become head coach. Our hard work and total heart for the game has really shown through this year and we are ready to keep the Puma tradition alive."

The girls started their preseason workouts on August 8th. Eight freshmen walked into their first college preseason workout and sixteen veterans returned. Awerkamp said, "The majority of us came in really nervous, but Coach really pushed [us] to our physical and mental limits without sending us over the edge."
Despite the heartbreaking losses, Awerkamp says the team is doing "Fabulous". She gives credit to Dowiak for being a "great influence" on the team. According to Awerkamp, "Two-a-days prepared me mentally and physically for our season. I'm in the best shape I have ever been in while in college."
As of September 8th, the team has 1-2-1 record. Awerkamp says, "With the talent we have and the new coaching staff, we have the potential to land a spot in the top three or four in our conference."
The girls start their conference season on the road

traveling to Missouri. When asked what game she is looking forward to the most, Awerkamp said, "Bellarmine: we lost to them last year in the first round at conference in double overtime 1-0. It was a heartbreaker but we are ready for them to come back."
With such a rigorous schedule, the girls would like for the fan support to continue and would like to say, "Thanks to those of you who have come out to our home games thus far, keep it up! We appreciate your support." The girls foresee the team being very competitive within their conference and making it into the conference tourney. Pulice comments, "We love playing in front of a big crowd of our peers. A big crowd at our games gives us such an adrenaline rush, and pushes us to play that much harder."

Goals Met and Made: Men's Soccer

By Christie VanEyck, Staff Writer

In the distance one can hear people screaming and sirens going off... an accident on Saint Joseph's campus perhaps? Nah, these sounds definitely mean that the men of the SJC soccer team have kicked off (pun intended) another season.
Not only are the men out on the field for another season, but they appear to be playing well and having a blast! As stated by senior McKinley Jones, "Our team chemistry is great. This has been one of the most fun teams

to play on in my four years here at SJC. We are so much like a family... we push each other very hard everyday to succeed."
With such positive team morale, one can only imagine the goals that will be met and made this season. "My goal is to make all-conference, and for our team go to the conference tournament and the NCAA tournament." said senior Justin Fox.

On September 16th the men play host to Southern Illinois University- Edwardsville at 7:30p.m., so if you are looking for one of most exciting ways to spend ninety minutes of your life, I will see you in the stands!



Dear Frankie, Dear Sammy...

Dear Reader,
It's an odd question—asking an advice columnist of his credentials, or even of his identity—but I guess the question bank was weak for this issue. Truth be told, it's rather sad that you should ask it.
Why is this? Well, if memory serves me correctly, Abby Van Buren's column *Dear Abby* has inspired and provoked conversation among thankful readers ever since its conception in the 1950s. Early in her career, however, competition between her and her twin sister, the writer of the rival (and more widely read, much to her dismay) "Dear Abby," led to one of the biggest public displays of sibling rivalry in American newspaper history. Leave it to the morally incorrupt Iowa native to dish on her sister's nose job in *Life* magazine.
In essence, then, an advice column is just that: words on a page composed by someone dealing with the same problems that everybody else does. And though the columnist might not always play nice, he's certain at least to entertain.

-Frankie Dunhill

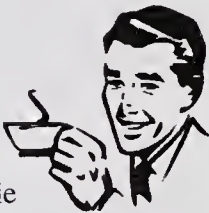
Dear Frankie & Sammy,
So, you're the new advice columnists for *The Observer*. Who exactly are you people? And just what, exactly, makes you qualified to dispense advice to the student body here at SJC? Thanks for reading my letter...

-Inquisitive in Indy



Sammy Samporina

Do you have a question for Frankie and Sammy? Then e-mail them at Dunhill_Samporina@yahoo.com.



Frankie Dunhill

Reader,
Who am I? You know me a whole lot better than you think you do. I'm that little voice in the back of your head. You know – the one that says *Go on...have another gin and tonic...seven's a lucky number...* In short, I'm the dispenser of the "good" advice that you never seem to take. But we'll overlook that fact for now. Let's just say, for the sake of this column, that I'm the ultimate realist – I'll point out the obvious solution every time. And you might not always like my advice, but that's probably just because you have a conscience. And what makes me qualified to dispense advice to the student body? Absolutely nothing. But twenty-some years of experience have taught me one thing: your gut reaction coupled with a gin & tonic is rarely wrong. If you want the "good" solution to your question, read Frankie Dunhill's column across the gutter from mine. If you want the most hedonistic suggestions imaginable, check back here next issue.

-Sammy Samporina

The Literary List

Tired of reading for Core? Check out this week's best seller list from *The NY Times*. Many of these titles are available at the Rensselaer Public Library.

(Library cards are free to students!)

Fiction Bestsellers from *The New York Times*:

1. **Chill Factor**, by Sandra Brown
2. **The Da Vinci Code**, by Dan Brown
3. **The Historian**, by Elizabeth Kostova
4. **Lifeguard**, by James Patterson and Andrew Gross
5. **Sweetwater Creek**, by Anne Rivers Siddons
6. **The Mermaid Chair**, by Sue Monk Kidd
7. **The Undomestic Goddess**, by Sophie Kinsella
8. **The Interruption of Everything**, by Terry McMillan
9. **No Country for Old Men**, by Cormac McCarthy
10. **Until I Find You**, by John Irving

In Rensselaer: Gary Gildner

- *An evening of Gildner's selected works, read by the author*
- *The Carnegie Center, 301 N Van Rensselaer St., Rensselaer, Indiana 47978*
- *Tuesday, September 20, at 8:00 pm*
- *Free to the community!*

In Lafayette:

Gangbé Brass Band

- What? *10-piece brass band from Benin, West Africa*
- Where? *Duncan Hall, 619 Ferry St., Lafayette IN 47920*
- When? *Sunday October 16, 7:30pm (doors open at 7:00)*
- Cost? *\$12 in advance, \$14 the day of the show*
- For more information, go to www.friends-of-bob.org
- Note: *Seats are available, but come casual and ready to dance!*

The Lafayette Symphony Orchestra

- What? *An orchestral concert, featuring Beethoven's "Emperor" Piano Concerto No. 5 and Sibelius' Symphony No. 5*
- Where? *The Long Center, 111 N. 6th Street Lafayette, Indiana 47901*
- When? *Saturday October 17, 8:00 pm*
- For more information, go to <http://lafayettesymphony.iobt.net>

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for Sept 16 - 22
(219) 866-2222

www.fountainstonetheaters.com

The Exorcism of Emily Rose
Fri: 5:20, 7:25, 9:30 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30
Sun: 3:15, 5:20, 7:25
Mon-Th: 5:20, 7:25

Just Like Heaven
Fri: 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
Sun: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00
Mon-Th: 5:00, 7:00

Transporter 2
Fri: 5:10, 7:10, 9:10 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10
Sun: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10
Mon-Th: 5:10, 7:10

The Dukes of Hazzard
Fri: 7:00, 9:00 (PG-13)
Sat: 7:00, 9:00 Sun: 7:00
Mon-Th: 7:00

March of the Penguins
Fri: 5:30 (G)
Sat: 3:30, 5:30
Sun: 3:30, 5:30
Mon-Th: 5:30

The 40 Year-Old Virgin
Fri: 5:00, 7:10, 9:20 (R)
Sat: 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20
Sun: 2:50, 5:00, 7:10
Mon-Th: 5:00, 7:10

-Horoscopes By Auntie Cleo-

Virgo (Aug. 23 Sept. 21)
Have you been spreading yourself too thin lately? Learn how to say "No." Now is the time to accept criticism and grow from it. A happy surprise is on its way, perhaps a love letter or new relationship... Weigh out all options before making any rash decisions.

Libra (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)
Learn the virtues of self-discipline and teamwork. Do not give into intimidation or pressure. Now is not the season to waste time. With all the adrenaline rushing, begin to stretch yourself and test new limits. Do not let yourself be overburdened by chores and responsibilities.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Now is the time to begin a new journey. Avoid self-pity, rid yourself of old habits, and follow your intuition. Do not be overdramatic, but do what is good for all parties involved. You will have good luck in your future academics as well as acknowledgment for a job well done.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)
You are experiencing

difficulties communicating with others. Family and friends bring answers soon. You are an understanding listener and know just what to say to please others. This is not the time to start so be patient.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)
Spend money wisely. Now is the season to spend time with friends. Get away from the daily grind. A vacation may be in the works. Do not be intimidated by arguments with your significant other, but do not go to bed angry either. Past efforts will bring you rewards.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)
Do not be so set in your ways that you miss the big picture by focusing on details. Do not take on too much. Learn from the successes and failures of others. Keep your emotions in check. Beware of deceptions and illusions. Health improves, but it takes effort on your part.

Pisces (Feb. 18-March 20)
Make yourself available to others, but do not spread yourself too thin. It is time to take a step back and look at problems in a new perspective.

Do not be in a hurry to get things done; there is life beyond work. Take time to tell those closest to you how much they mean to you.

Aries (March 21-April 19)
Love conquers all. Try to be a peacemaker. Refuse to get shaken when others try to undermine your confidence, strengths, and abilities. Ask a favor and offer one, too. Setbacks are likely. Walk in the middle path. Postpone arguments and debates until others open their eyes.

Taurus (April 20-May 19)
Personal growth comes through modesty and compassion. Faith overcomes current obstacles. You have the power to accomplish your goals. It is an excellent time to begin new projects. Stretch yourself and test your limits. You may have to take criticism from family and friends, but this is the time to push forward and improve your quality of life.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)
Shrug off your current lack of focus and work diligently to achieve your goals. Meet

opposition with sympathy and compassion. Pay close attention to the big picture, not the details. Confusion and loss are likely if you let greed or insecurity take over.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)
Surround yourself with those who love you. Rewards and paybacks are just around the corner. Getting what you want is your responsibility. Your strength uplifts those who lack the resources to solve their problems alone. Let go of something old in preparation for new opportunities.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)
Be careful not to give up right away when things do not go easily. Cleanse yourself of habits that are doing you no good. Be true to yourself and try something new. Say what you feel then move on. Situations are nowhere near resolution, anything new, have patience. Paybacks and rewards are quickly approaching, but will only come if you strive for success.